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THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION.

BOSTON, NOV. AND DEC., 1889.

R. B. HOWARD, EDITOR.

—You can as easily restore an amputated limb as to heal the moral wounds of war.

—Among the subscribers (\$200) to the London Peace Society are J. & P. Coates of Paisley, Scotland, the great thread manufacturers whose business is also prosperous in this country.

—Within fifteen years Italy has negotiated eighteen treaties with an arbitral clause.

—“Here she is again! A young lady stands first in the competition for the six \$800 scholarships at Cornell University. What’s the matter with the young men of this day and generation?”—*Herald*.

Most of them, probably, are playing base-ball, or betting on the game.

—Kennan’s course of lectures at Tremont Temple, Boston, on Russian brutality and barbarism in Siberia, especially towards political exiles, have deepened the righteous indignation which his *Century* articles aroused. The moral sense of mankind is outraged by the Czar’s policy. The sympathy of Americans is with the men struggling for liberty. We hate murder as a remedy. Let the Czar heal himself.

—The Life of Henry Richard by Charles Miall has just been published in England by Cassell & Co., One of Mr. Richard’s eloquent periods at the great anti-Turkish Conference at St. James Hall was, “Let us protest that not one penny of English money, not one drop of English blood shall be expended in upholding that organized barbarism called the Ottoman Empire!” The whole meeting leaped to its feet and cheered long and loudly. But Emperor William has just received presents on his visit to the impoverished and almost bankrupt Sultan amounting to \$1,000,000! The latter is still alive to the need of enlisting the triple alliance against Russia. How much blood have Prussia and Italy to spill for upholding Turkish barbarism.

—We feel deeply indebted to the son of our friend, Rev. H. Halsey, of East Wilson, N. Y., for a photographic likeness forwarded to us through Miss Virginia Dox, a teacher of Indian schools (I. T.). We have had it framed and hung over our desk. It is an incentive to faithfulness to the cause of Peace.

—We were glad to notice that William Jones and wife, of England, were at Kansas Yearly Meeting of Friends, at Richmond, Ind., Philadelphia and Baltimore, on their way around the world. We hope to see these advocates of Peace in Boston.

—At the general Baptist Congress, which held its eighth meeting at Toronto, Ontario, Nov. 12–14, Rev. George D. Boardman, D. D., of Philadelphia, and Mr. J. E. Wells of Toronto, read papers on “The Disarmament of Nations.”

—Deprived of renewing acquaintance with Germany, Switzerland and Italy this season we venture to print in the present number of the *Advocate*, some notes of a former delightful visit to those countries.

A BRITISH PEACE CAMPAIGN.

Rev. W. Evans Darby, Secretary of the London Peace Society, has led a vigorous campaign in Scotland during the month of October. He secured the co-operation of some of the most influential men and delivered eighteen addresses and sermons very acceptably to good audiences. John Wilson, M. P., presided at the Glasgow Christian Institute. He said (in substance) those who kindle the flame of the next war are not those who will suffer from the conflagration. Rulers and statesmen may go scathless, but conscripted soldiers weltering in blood, tradesmen reduced to poverty, ruined farmers, widows and orphans in desolated homes with broken hearts, the conquered nations bankrupt, the conquerors more cruel and despotic, the masses of the people more enslaved;—such have been and such will be the consequences of war, even if Governments are not overturned, nations divided and scattered. It will take half a century of peace, with all the energy and struggles of the frugal and industrious, to repair even the material waste of a single year of war. The moral desolations are irreparable.

The British people ought to insist that everything human ingenuity can devise should be employed to avert a calamity so terrible.

THE LAST ABSURDITY.

The following action was taken in return for the honors conferred by England upon Emperor William.

“Emperor William has conferred upon the Queen the command of the First Dragoon Guards of Berlin, and upon the Duke of Cambridge, the honorary colonelcy of a regiment of infantry. The document conferring the appointment upon the Queen begins: ‘Most illustrious grandmother: It is a special honor for me to be able to enroll you in an army in which your sons and grandsons, and other relations, have filled honorable positions for many years.’” Grandmother Victoria riding at the head of a Prussian Regiment! “How are you Col. Queen?” The wonder is that her majesty’s good sense does not reject a compliment so doubtful and so ridiculous.

THE ALASKA WAR ON SEAL-CATCHERS.

President J. B. Angell, of Michigan University, who is so versed in the history of international relations as to be authority on the subject, published in *The Forum* for November a full and circumstantial account of “American Rights in the Behring Sea.” His conclusion seems to be that our people have no exclusive right to the seal fisheries of that great open sea (1000 miles long and 800 miles wide), and that our Government can not sustain its claim to seize, order off, confiscate or even to exclude vessels of other nations engaged in that industry.

On the other hand, he feels no doubt that Great Britain and Russia and Japan will unite with us to protect the seals in breeding time from wanton destruction, which will result in extermination. The Alaska Seal Company is limited by law in its catch to 100,000 seals. The skins are all sent to London to be dressed and prepared for use. Humanity to poor Siberian fishermen would seem to demand regard to their interests also. Besides it is mere wanton cruelty to commit such wholesale slaughter as is going on.

Mr. Angell says, “The British Government is proceeding with much deliberation and freedom from excitement.

If we are reasonable, there is good ground to believe that we can come to an understanding with England and other nations that will secure all the protection we can properly ask for our seals."

The boundary question is more difficult. The line between Alaska and Columbia has been indicated in treaties by certain land marks and a range of mountains, but has never been surveyed. To survey it properly would take ten years and cost \$1,500,000. The best way to settle it is for a Commission of the two governments to meet and agree upon an arbitrary line, at least until the survey can be completed.

THE THREE AMERICAS.

Delegates from nearly all the independent nations on the Western Hemisphere, met in Washington, D. C., October 2d, as an International Conference of American nations.

This may be called the first meeting of the kind, though repeated efforts have been made to secure such a conference of American nations, and once, in 1826, delegates came together and held a session of one or two days.

The call for the Conference states the object of the meeting to consider measures for the promotion of the peace and prosperity of the American nations, for the formation of a "customs union," to promote communication between the different countries, regulate importation and exportation of merchandise, secure a common silver currency, and provide for the settlement of disputes or difficulties that may arise between them by arbitration.

The nations represented are Argentine Republic, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chili, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, San Domingo, San Salvador, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela. Canada, as a dependency of Great Britain, Cuba as a colony belonging to Spain, and Guiana being ruled by several foreign powers, were not entitled to representation. The delegates are at present visiting the prominent industries and places of interest in this country. No doubt good will come out of the Congress's meetings. The interest awakened by it in the several nations represented will result in a better acquaintance with our own half of the world. Specially will South America be brought before the world. Our children will hear of the great empires, and the immense wealth of that country, and learn of it as we have learned of Africa, which in our school days was called "*The Dark Continent*."

The Conference brings out the fact that the English language predominates on the Western Hemisphere. It is probably spoken by 70,000,000 people; but the Spanish language is the tongue of at least 45,000,000 people, occupying more than 8,000,000 square miles of land, or over half the surface of the three Americas. Every nation represented in the Conference, with the exception of the United States and Hayti, speaks the Spanish tongue. This prevalence of the Spanish language is the principal evidence that now remains of the discoveries and conquests the Spaniards made and the colonies they planted on these continents.

The Peace Society is universally respected to-day and it will be quite fashionable in another decade. — *London Daily News*.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

After more than a month's travel the Conference reassembled in Washington Nov. 18, Secretary Blaine in the chair, and proceeded to prepare business, appoint committees, etc. The Brazilian revolution may delay the action of the Delegates from that country. The following are among the subjects on which the Conference will act by its special committees as reported by a general business committee:

Three committees of five members each to consider and report upon the best means of extending and improving the facilities for transportation and postal and telegraphic communication between the several countries represented that border on the Atlantic ocean, Pacific ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and the Carribean sea, respectively.

A committee of three to consider and report upon the adoption of a uniform system of weights and measures.

A committee of seven to consider and report upon the best method of establishing and maintaining sanitary regulations in commerce between the several countries represented.

A committee on international law, to consist of five members, to report uniform rules of private international law affecting civil and commercial matters and the legalization of documents.

A committee on general welfare, to consist of seven members, to report *some plan of arbitration for the settlement of disagreements that may hereafter arise between the several nations represented in the conference*, and to receive, consider and report upon any other topics that may be proposed other than those included in the invitation from the government of the United States.

The report was ordered to be printed, and laid aside for future consideration. The conference adjourned until Wednesday.

Secretary Blaine has appointed William E. Curtis executive officer of the conference, to look after everything connected with the external arrangements.

HOW WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN WAS AVERTED.

In 1874 there was imminent danger of war between Japan and China. A Japanese embassy went to Peking to assert Japan's imperial rule over the Loo Choo Islands. At such a time war would have greatly hindered every form of mission work. [At what time would it not?] The natives were greatly excited. The missionaries offered prayer that this work might not cease or be interfered with. Nothing seemed likely to allay the belligerent feelings of the Japanese. They were on the eve of departure in great anger. Sir Thomas Wade, the British Minister, feeling the need of peaceful measures, offered as a last resort to be their mediator. The offer was suddenly accepted. Sir Thomas became the pacificator. War was prevented, and has never occurred between these nations. Could we ascribe this to an answer to prayer? I believe we can; an answer to both the general and special prayers of God's people. In a similar manner war between Russia and China was avoided after the rejection of the treaty of Livadia. By these large coincidences we note the divine control which is an answer to prayer.—*Dr. E. K. Alden*.